

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 3721.

**In re Patent Application of:**

James Johnson

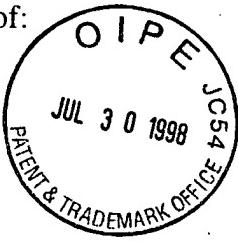
Serial No. 08/899,434

Filed: July 24, 1997

Examiner: John Paradiso

**Title:** "Fastener Tape Material, Bag Utilizing Fastener Tape Material, and Method of Manufacture Thereof"

Attorney Docket No.: 10172-9013



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I, Kathleen F. Rutz, hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail on the date of my signature and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: July 30, 1998

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed  
July 1, 1998.

The Applicant makes the following election with traverse and in accordance with the Office Action of the Examiner as set forth in the restriction requirement. The Applicant elects to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-3, 8-19, 34-35 and 61-71. It is respectfully submitted however that, at a minimum, Groups I, II and III could be examined simultaneously. The Applicant respectfully submits however that the restriction requirement and classifications of claims set forth by the Examiner merely set apart minor differences in the art of reclosable bags, methods